

## Municipal Oversight Committee (MOC) Meeting Minutes - 1/8/09

Voting Members:	Member present
Bridgton	
Cape Elizabeth	
Chebeague Island	
Casco	Dave Morton
Cumberland	
Falmouth	Theo Holtwijk
Freeport	Donna Larson, Chairperson
Gorham	Tom Ellsworth
Gray	George Thebarga
Harpswell	Carol Tukey
Harrison	Lisa Villa
Long Island	
Naples	
New Gloucester	
North Yarmouth	
Pownal	
Raymond	
Scarborough	Jay Chace
Sebago	Allen Crabtree
South Portland	Erik Carson
Standish	Caroline Biegel
Windham	
Yarmouth	
County Commissioner:	
Ex-Officio Members:	Keith Luke, Westbrook
Staff:	Aaron Shapiro, County Caroline Paras, GPCOG
Others:	Neal Allen, GPCOG Peter Crichton, Cumberland County

### Materials:

#### Handouts:

- 1) Meeting agenda
- 2) Memo concerning late pre-applications
- 3) Memo concerning distribution of 2007 "carry-over" funds

1) Welcome and Introductions – Chairperson Donna Larson

2) The meeting lacks a quorum by one voting member. The agenda is modified to take up the Application Review Team and Westbrook's interest in joining the program first.

3) Application Review Team: Aaron reiterates the values identified by the MOC at the October 2008 meeting in forming the Review Team: minimize conflicts of interest to the maximum extent feasible and provide a mix of rural & suburban; large & small; inland & coastal communities, again - to the maximum extent feasible. Aaron listed off the 11 communities likely submitting applications. He identified Erik Carson of South Portland as the rotating set-aside community member and Matti Gurney of GPCOG as the staff member. Aaron included MOC Chair Donna Larson as a potential member along with four community representatives that are not submitting applications this year.

Donna Larson: Freeport will be submitting an application

Lisa Villa: States the inequity of the Chairperson sitting on the Review Team yet others are restricted if their communities are submitting applications.

General discussion ensues with the consensus that representatives from communities would not be restricted from the Review Team simply because their towns are submitting applications. People believed that reviewers would be fair to all, that they would not be scoring their own community's applications. This greatly expands the potential membership of the Review Team. The Chairperson will select the members.

It was further suggested that the Review Team be established on an annual rotating basis with membership identified by community several years into the future.

4) Potential of Westbrook Joining the Program in 2010: This was a discussion. Keith Luke, Westbrook Economic & Community Development Director introduces Westbrook's interest in joining the Cumberland County program. The community is rethinking the decision made in 2007 to not join.

Aaron Shapiro: Westbrook is permitted to join the program and its entrance will bring additional funds to the program. The critical issue is whether or not they will receive a set-aside reservation of funds. This set-aside will be less than what they bring in.

In response to several questions Aaron outlines some of the demographics of Westbrook and a bit of the history when Westbrook declined to join in 2007. He explained the rationale behind Bridgton's set-aside. Peter Critchon further described the formation of the County program and how set-aside allocations came about and were determined.

Discussion ensued on the positives and negatives of set-aside allocations and whether Westbrook should receive a set-aside. Tom Ellsworth pointed out that the set-aside would provide Westbrook with a competitive advantage to other communities. Others identified the need for regional cooperation.

4) Acceptance of Late Pre-Applications: As outlined in the memo provided, four communities submitted pre-applications after the December 12<sup>th</sup> deadline. This was a decision item and a vote could not be taken without a quorum. The general sense of the discussion was that the pre-applications from Sebago, Harrison and Casco should be accepted given extenuating circumstances. The pre-application received from Standish on December 18<sup>th</sup> lacked extenuating circumstances and should not be accepted. The group decided to conduct an e-mail poll of the MOC as a method to decide the issue.

5) Communities Re-joining for 2010-2012: Aaron tells all that communities will be receiving a letter shortly about re-joining the program. The way HUD sets this up - if you do nothing your community remains in the program. If your community wishes to withdraw it must take affirmative action and notify the County of its intent.

6) Next Meeting: February 12, 2009. 3:00PM at GPCOG